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ABSTRACT

Career education is a comprehensive education program focused on careers and an educational process where people gain knowledge, attitudes, awareness, and skills necessary for career success. It is the position of the Nevada State Board of Education that career education is needed by and intended for all people, and the goal for Nevada is to develop a comprehensive system of career education programs and services. In addition to offering the position and policy of Nevada, this paper provides a definition of career education, ways in which the educational system can develop student potential, and student characteristics that should result from a career education program. (SB)

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A
Position and Policy Statement
for Career Education

VT017430

BY

THE NEVADA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

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A POSITION and Policy Statement for Career Education

on March 23, 1972

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NEVADA STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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Introduction

Career education is based on the premise that career awareness and preparation should represent a significant, continuing and cumulative learning experience from kindergarten through postsecondary education.

Since an individual's occupation is a major factor in his sense of control over his own destiny, the education system must assist each individual to sustain himself through productive employment consistent with his abilities and interests. Work, or the inability or failure to work, is for nearly every person a prime determinant of standard of living, family relationships, friendships, life style, community service, citizenship, and leisure time.

As our society becomes more complex, so does the problem of creating and maintaining a work force adequate to meet its needs. The uneducated and unskilled find themselves increasingly disadvantaged in the labor market, even as the demand grows for higher levels of skills. This results in the "manpower paradox"--workers without jobs at a time when jobs are unfilled because of shortages of qualified workers. Programs are needed to prepare workers for jobs in existence now and for jobs being created. The fundamental need, then, is for the education system to be comprehensive and flexible.

The education system must make provisions for every learner to acquire those skills that will allow him to make a livelihood for himself and for his future family, regardless of the level at which he leaves the education system. These skills contribute both to individual fulfillment and to the maintenance and progress of society.

If students are to acquire career skills, the artificial separation of things academic and things vocational should be eliminated. All education is career education, or should be.

CAREER EDUCATION DEFINED:

Career is interpreted both as the total pattern of employment an individual will follow over the course of his life, and as the specific marketable skill with which he gains entry into the world of work.

Career Education is a comprehensive education program focused on careers and an educational process where people gain knowledge, attitudes, awareness, and skills necessary for success in the world of work (career success).

Learner Needs

Every learner, at each education level, should be assisted in developing his full education potential. In order for the learner to develop this potential, the education system must respond to the following learner needs:

RELEVANCY	All instruction should be relevant to the real-life concerns of learners, thus allowing them to develop the basic knowledge, skills, and values that are essential for success in any career they might choose.
AWARENESS EXPLORATION SKILL DEVELOPMENT	All learners must be provided with ample opportunities to explore knowledge, skills, technical requirements, working conditions, responsibilities, and social and political environments in all career fields open to them.
GUIDANCE	All learners must be assured expert guidance to help them assess their personal interests, aptitudes, and abilities as they make career choices and plan the appropriate educational programs.

Learner Needs (Continued):

CURRICULUM	All learners, beginning in early childhood and extending through all educational levels, should be provided a continuum of career education programs, curricula, and services designed to ensure maximum educational growth.
CONTINUING EDUCATION	All learners must have ready access to opportunities for advanced occupational preparation in community colleges, universities, public and private schools, and/or business and industry.
FREEDOM TO CHOOSE	All learners should be afforded the right to choose on the basis of self-knowledge, adequate information and exploration related to alternative educational programs and career opportunities, as well as the right to modify such choices in the light of changes in occupational and educational directions as the learner develops new motivations, needs, interests, and abilities.

Position

It is the position of the Nevada State Board of Education that Career Education is needed by and intended for all people. It is a lifelong development process which extends from early childhood through adulthood and is based upon the premise that all work and purposeful study are respectable. It is responsive to public demand for both relevance and accountability.

Position (Continued):

CAREER EDUCATION

- represents a core around which other school experiences are organized and made meaningful;

- provides job information and skill development, helping students develop proper attitudes regarding the personal, physiological, social, and economic significances of work;

- is a sequentially-developed, comprehensive education program offering opportunities for career orientation and exploration, plus job preparation--for all learners.

Components of this sequentially-developed education program should be designed to ensure development of student characteristics at certain key ages approximately as follows:

- By age 9, the learner understands the concept of work, appreciates the values of work and of workers, and is familiar with a wide variety of types and fields of work.

- By age 12, the learner is familiar with the broad families of occupations; is aware of the prerequisites for employment in various types and fields of work; and understands how progress is made from one occupational level to another.

- By age 14, the learner is able to assess his own potential and to participate in making informed decisions regarding his immediate educational and occupational goals.

- By age 18, every learner is able to choose and plan the next step in his occupational and/or educational career.

- Adults and out-of-school youth will have lifelong access to career education programs for new training, retraining, and upgrading their career skills.

Policy

It is the policy of the Nevada State Board of Education that every learner develop

- competencies necessary for living and earning a living;

  and

- appropriate attitudes toward work and the worth of the worker.

Learners should

- be made aware of a large number of occupations and careers;

- be involved in the exploration of selected occupations and careers;

  and

- acquire competencies and/or academic backgrounds for a career.

The goal is for Nevada to develop a comprehensive system of career education programs and services. This system will serve the career education needs of all persons.

The State Department of Education and county school districts must, through cooperation and coordination, use Nevada's total education system to effect career education. Without question, more than education is involved. There must be changes in the attitudes and expectations of government, business and industry, teachers, parents, and students.

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POSITION AND POLICY COMMITTEES

Nevada's Position and Policy Statement for Career Education was developed under the direction of R. Courtney Riley, Director, Vocational-Technical and Adult Education Branch, in cooperation with the following groups:

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